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CONTRAS, STUNG BY COMPLAINTS, PLAN SHAKEUP ROBERT PARRY WASHINGTON

The chief U.S.-backed Nicaraguan rebel group, torn by internal dissent and charges of mismanagement, is undergoing a behind-the-scenes shakeup that includes appointment of a Miami-based exiled businessman to coordinate its financial and political operations.

Leonardo Somarriba was named secretary general of the United Nicaraguan Opposition, UNO, last month, but no announcement was made because, according to Nicaraguans close to UNO, admission of existing problems could undercut President Reagan's request for \$100 million in military and other aid.

The Democratic-controlled House is scheduled to reconsider that package on April 15, after defeating it last month. Reagan's proposal narrowly cleared the Republican-dominated Senate on March 27.

Somarriba's appointment \_ in effect, to be UNO's chief executive officer \_ represents an apparent shift in power away from the umbrella group's three publicly known directors: Adolfo Calero, who also heads the chief rebel army, the CIA -organized Nicaraguan Democratic Force, FDN; and two former Sandinista government officials, Arturo Cruz and Alfonso Robelo.

It follows mounting complaints from Nicaraguan exiles that UNO \_ created at White House urging last June \_ had failed to achieve either political or military unity in the war against Nicaragua's leftist Sandinista government. The exiles have also criticized UNO for alleged mishandling of U.S. funds and nepotism.

The Nicaraguan Business Council, a group of conservative exiled business leaders, outlined the complaints in a heated, private meeting with the three UNO directors in Miami on Jan. 18, according to several participants who insisted on anonymity.

With Somarriba acting as their spokesman, the Nicaraguan businessmen criticized UNO's leadership for its internal bickering, subservience to the United States and the naming of cronies to key jobs, the participants said.

The participants said Calero reacted angrily to the criticism. One businessman described Calero's response as "petulant, cocky, rude" but added that Cruz and Robelo were receptive.

FDN spokesman Bosco Matamoros said Calero was traveling and unavailable for comment.

In a separate report, a group of former FDN commanders, known as the Nicaraguan Coalition of Opposition to the Regime, criticized the FDN's "huge, inefficient bureaucracy" and charged that "cronyism and nepotism (were) rampant at all levels."

Then last month, the General Accounting Office, Congress' investigative arm, reported that it could not track \$7.1 million in U.S. aid provided to UNO and funneled through Miami-based "brokers" to Central America. The money was part of \$27 million in U.S. non-lethal aid.

GAO's findings focused specific attention on Calero's use of his brother, Mario, and his brother-in-law, Aristedes Sanchez, to operate the FDN's supply and financial networks.

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